



Police Call Meeting to Discuss Spike in Crime

The Fair Oaks District Station of the Fairfax County Police Department has called a meeting of it's citizens to discuss a growing problem that affects us all! In the past 10 weeks, the numbers of burglaries, thefts from vehicles and vehicle tamperings have increased. These increases are the highest among all the police districts in the county.

The meeting will be this Friday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fair Oaks District Police Station, located at 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway. First Lieutenant Ed O'Carroll, Assistant Commander of the Fair Oaks District Police Station and Second Lieutenant Chip Crawford, Supervisor of the Criminal Investigations Section, will address these problems and your Crime Prevention Officers will offer solutions that can reduce the occurrence of these crimes.

Maps with the area hot spots will be provided to you. By the end of the meeting, whether you have been victimized or not, you will understand the need for the community to join efforts with law enforcement in order to successfully win this battle.

Light refreshments will be provided. The meeting will last approximately two hours depending on community involvement and questions. We look forward to meeting and speaking with you on these issues.

If you have any questions, e-mail MPO Sophia Grinnan at sophia.grinnan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Thank you!

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New Technology in Crime Solving



Fairfax County Crime Solvers Takes a New Byte Out of Crime!

With the recent creation of their new website, Fairfax County Crime Solvers has tapped into the latest technology available for receiving anonymous tips. Tipsters may now give their information via texting or e-mail using state-of-the-art software purchased through Anderson Software. Texting is a popular form of communication for the younger generation and Fairfax County Crime Solvers hopes to open that line of communication with them.

Previously, tipsters were limited to calling a phone number. This new software opens the door for Crime Solver programs and interfaces these newer forms of communication with tip-taking. It enables tipsters to communicate through a secure server that blocks their identity. Thus, tipsters are able to relay vital information from anywhere they can send text or e-mail messages and at any time.

In addition, their new website provides current information on wanted persons, news releases, suspects caught in the act and upcoming events. This site is continually updated. It was designed with the user in mind and provides a means to stay current with the latest efforts of the Crime Solvers Board.

Fairfax County Crime Solvers is the first in the Washington Metropolitan region to implement this new texting and e-mail software. Other programs in the nation that currently use it have seen a sharp increase in the number of tips received.

Fairfax County Crime Solvers is a non-profit 501C3 organization comprised of business leaders and citizens throughout the area. They provide a venue for those with knowledge of a criminal act to report information without the fear of retaliation. Their tip lines are protected under law.

The Fairfax County Crime Solvers' Board of Directors invites you to visit their new website at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org Those who wish to report information may now utilize one of the three methods available:

- **By phone** – Call 1-866-411-TIPS/8477 and follow the voice prompts to Fairfax County
- **By e-mail** – visit www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org and click on the secure link to communicate back and forth.
- **By texting** – Text “TIP187” plus your message to CRIMES/274637



Neighborhood Watch News



Don't forget our third of four Neighborhood Watch training sessions in 2008! The June 12th training will be held in the roll call room at the Fair Oaks District Station at 7:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity for the existing volunteers to take a refresher course as well as to train newcomers. If there is a large group at any given time we may change the venue to the Sully District Station conference room. **Do not forget to R.S.V.P. to MPO Sophia Grinnan via e-mail at sophia.grinnan@fairfaxcounty.gov.** The last training date in 2008 is October 16th.

It will be up to each community to provide participants. Only if you have participants should you contact MPO Grinnan. Lack of participation will result in a cancellation. If the session is canceled, you will be notified by an automated response when you e-mail MPO Grinnan. For example: You e-mail and ask if the training will still be presented. After you send the e-mail you will get an automated reply indicating whether it is canceled.

During our March meeting, we changed our meeting format and we have received a lot of positive feedback. NW Coordinators and members of the community shared problems, concerns and effective solutions with each other. Issues of interest were brought to the police department's attention and we will be targeting and addressing those matters.

Our next **Neighborhood Watch meeting will be on Tuesday, April 29.** The meeting will last from 7:00 p.m. until approximately 7:30. You are then welcome to stay for the CAC meeting and enjoy a very informative and rather entertaining presentation from a representative of our Animal Services Division. You don't want to miss it!



CAC NEWS



The next Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting will be on April 29th at 7:30 p.m. in the Fair Oaks District Station roll call room. This month an Animal Control Officer from our Animal Services Division will discuss the operation of their division and how it relates to the police department. You will also be familiarized with their response trailer which will be housed in one of the Fire Department's bays. First Lt. Ed O'Carroll will be present to answer any of your concerns with regard to the Police Department. It should be an informative and entertaining night. We look forward to seeing you there!



Keep Current on County News!



Read for yourself what is happening around the County! Visit our web site for Fairfax County Police news releases which are published and updated daily. Share this information with other community members and use it to help protect yourselves and each other. Yes, knowledge is power! You will be given lookouts for predators and missing persons. You will be informed of fatal crashes and arrests. These releases will alert you to the hazards of DWI, pedestrian safety, burglaries and much more.

The updated web address is:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/news-releases/>

**PARENTS
WHO HOST
LOSE
THE MOST™**

Don't be
a party to
teenage
drinking.

It's against
the law.

The Countywide Initiative To Reduce Underage Drinking is endorsed by
Fairfax County Public Schools and Fairfax County Government

Call 703-691-2131, TTY 711 to report underage drinking parties to the police

Contact 571-423-4270 for further information about the initiative.

Funds for this ad provided by a Drug Free Community Support Program Grant
awarded to the Unified Coalition of Fairfax County from the Office of National Drug
Control Policy in partnership with SAMHSA

CDC Study Warns of Deaths Due to the “Choking Game”

Most fatalities in 11-to-16 year old boys

At least 82 youth have died as a result of playing what has been called “the choking game,” according to a study released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in today's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. The choking game involves intentionally trying to choke oneself or another in an effort to obtain a brief euphoric state or “high.” Death or serious injury can result if strangulation is prolonged.

Eighty-seven percent of these deaths were among males, and most fatalities occurred among those 11 years to 16 years old; the average age was 13, the report said. Choking game deaths were identified in 31 states, it said.

CDC found that most of the deaths occurred when a child engaged in the choking game alone, and that most parents were unaware of the choking game prior to their child's death.

“Because most parents in the study had not heard of the choking game, we hope to raise awareness of the choking game among parents, health care providers, and educators, so they can recognize warning signs of the activity,” said Robin L. Toblin, Ph.D., M.P.H., the study's lead author. “This is especially important because children themselves may not appreciate the dangers of this activity.”

Three or fewer choking game–related deaths per year were reported in the news media from 1995 to 2004, the report said. However, 22 deaths occurred in 2005, and 35 in 2006. Nine deaths occurred in the first 10 months of 2007; the explanation for this decrease is unclear. The researchers said the study probably underestimates the number of deaths.

For this study, CDC analyzed media reports of deaths attributed to the choking game. Deaths were not included unless the report provided evidence that they were a result of the choking game.

“This report is an important first step in identifying the choking game as a public health problem,” said Ileana Arias, Ph.D., director of CDC's Injury Center. “More research is needed to identify risk factors that may contribute to kids playing the choking game and to determine what may help to reduce this type of behavior.”

Signs that a child may be engaging in the choking game include

- discussion of the game—including other terms used for it, such as “pass-out game” or “space monkey”;
- bloodshot eyes;
- marks on the neck;
- severe headaches;
- disorientation after spending time alone;
- ropes, scarves, and belts tied to bedroom furniture or doorknobs or found knotted on the floor;
- unexplained presence of things like dog leashes, choke collars and bungee cords

If parents believe their child is playing the choking game, they should speak to them about the life-threatening dangers associated with the game and seek additional help if necessary.

For more information about CDC's work in injury and violence prevention, please link to:
www.cdc.gov/injury.

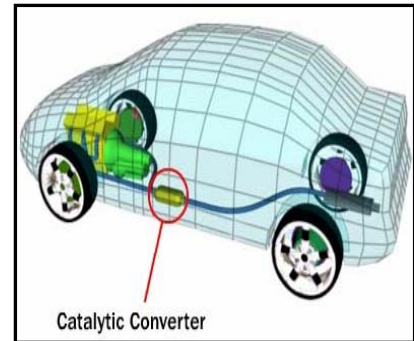
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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Fairfax County Police Department CRIME ALERT!

CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFTS

Since January, there has been an increase in catalytic converters cut off from automobiles in the Fair Oaks District. This has occurred at commuter lots, auto salvage yards, auto repair shops and neighborhoods throughout the County.



This kind of theft has also been discovered in neighboring jurisdictions.

The thefts in Fairfax County have been occurring during daytime hours, mostly during the work week. Suspect descriptions vary. Older model Nissans and Toyotas have been frequent targets.

Community members are strongly encouraged to be aware of suspicious activity during the course of your normal business day. Whether you are driving through your neighborhood or driving through metro lots or business complexes be alert of your surroundings. Don't confront criminals!

PLEASE remember to report ALL suspicious activity immediately by calling:

Emergency: 9-1-1 (in-progress calls)

Non-Emergency: 703-691-2131 (reports only)

CALLERS MAY REMAIN ANONYMOUS

Fairfax County Crime Solvers

4100 Chain Bridge Road Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.



Dodge a Ticket...Did You Know?



§ 46.2-852. Reckless driving; general rule.

Irrespective of the maximum speeds permitted by law, any person who drives a vehicle on any highway recklessly or at a speed or in a manner so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person shall be guilty of reckless driving.

§ 18.2-266. Driving motor vehicle, engine, etc., while intoxicated, etc.

It shall be unlawful for any person to drive or operate any motor vehicle, engine or train (i) while such person has a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent or more by weight by volume or 0.08 grams or more per 210 liters of breath as indicated by a chemical test administered as provided in this article, (ii) while such person is under the influence of alcohol, (iii) while such person is under the influence of any narcotic drug or any other self-administered intoxicant or drug of whatsoever nature, or any combination of such drugs, to a degree which impairs his ability to drive or operate any motor vehicle, engine or train safely, (iv) while such person is under the combined influence of alcohol and any drug or drugs to a degree which impairs his ability to drive or operate any motor vehicle, engine or train safely, or (v) while such person has a blood concentration of any of the following substances at a level that is equal to or greater than: (a) 0.02 milligrams of cocaine per liter of blood, (b) 0.1 milligrams of methamphetamine per liter of blood, (c) 0.01 milligrams of phencyclidine per liter of blood, or (d) 0.1 milligrams of 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine per liter of blood. A charge alleging a violation of this section shall support a conviction under clauses (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), or (v).

For the purposes of this article, the term "motor vehicle" includes mopeds, while operated on the public highways of this Commonwealth.

§ 46.2-341.28. Penalty for driving commercial motor vehicle while intoxicated; subsequent offense; prior conviction.

Any person violating any provision of subsection A of § 46.2-341.24 shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Any person convicted of a second offense committed within less than five years after a first offense under subsection A of § 46.2-341.24 shall be punishable by a fine of not less than \$200 nor more than \$2,500 and by confinement in jail for not less than one month nor more than one year. Five days of such confinement shall be a mandatory minimum sentence. Any person convicted of a second offense committed within a period of five to 10 years of a first offense under subsection A of § 46.2-341.24 shall be punishable by a fine of not less than \$200 nor more than \$2,500 and by confinement in jail for not less than one month nor more than one year. Any person convicted of a third offense or subsequent offense committed within 10 years of an offense under subsection A of § 46.2-341.24 shall be punishable by a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$2,500 and by confinement in jail for not less than two months nor more than one year. Thirty days of such confinement shall be a mandatory minimum sentence if the third or subsequent offense occurs within less than five years. Ten days of such confinement shall be a mandatory minimum sentence if the third or subsequent offense occurs within a period of five to 10 years of a first offense.

For the purposes of this section a conviction or finding of not innocent in the case of a juvenile under (i) § 18.2-51.4 or § 18.2-266, (ii) the ordinance of any county, city or town in this Commonwealth substantially similar to the provisions of § 18.2-51.4 or § 18.2-266, (iii) subsection A of § 46.2-341.24, or (iv) the laws of any other state substantially similar to the provisions of § 18.2-51.4, 18.2-266 or subsection A of § 46.2-341.24, shall be considered a prior conviction.



Fair Oaks District Station

12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy

Fairfax, Virginia 22033

Main Phone 703-591-0966

Fax 703-591-1032

Commander, Captain Paul Thornton

Paul.Thornton@fairfaxcounty.gov

Asst. Commander,

1Lieutenant Ed O'Carroll

Edward.O'Carroll@fairfaxcounty.gov

Crime Prevention Unit,

703-352-2163

Fairfax County Crime Solvers:

1-866-411-TIPS or 703-691-8888

Fairfax County Police

Non-Emergency: 703-691-2131

Citizen Reporting System

(for reports not requiring an officer to respond)

Call the non-emergency number at 703-691-2131 or report online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov to public safety, police department.



A Fairfax County, Va., publication

Think Before You Drink

The following is a safety message for teens and parents. Yearly high school festivities are approaching fast. Photo albums are full of photographs of proms, graduation parties and of course, graduation itself. Don't let these pictures be the last in your book! Keep your memories of your friends and children alive and safe by observing the underage drinking laws.

- Twenty one years old is still the legal age to consume alcoholic beverages
- Purchasing alcohol for minors is a criminal offense
- Chaperone all underage parties
- Don't let intoxicated persons behind the wheel of a vehicle
- Talk with teens or young adults about the laws and hazards with regards to drinking alcohol
- Educate our youth about the laws and hazards of using drugs

Our youth are our responsibility. Be informed about what is going on in your children's lives. Take an active role and be an active participant in youth-related activities. Above all, both parents and friends, be a good role model. You do make a difference!